

# Row and Column Spaces of a Matrix

Let  $A$  be an  $m \times n$  matrix.

Defn: The row space of  $A$  is the vector space spanned by the rows of  $A$ . We denote this space by  $\text{row}(A)$ . The row-rank of  $A$  is  $\dim(\text{row}(A))$ .

Ex: Let  $M = \begin{bmatrix} 3 & 2 & 8 & -1 & 0 \\ 1 & 7 & 6 & 1 & 1 \\ 4 & 1 & 7 & 0 & -5 \end{bmatrix} \leftarrow 3 \times 5 \text{ matrix.}$

$$\text{row}(M) = \text{span} \left\{ \begin{bmatrix} 3 & 2 & 8 & -1 & 0 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 7 & 6 & 1 & 1 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 4 & 1 & 7 & 0 & -5 \end{bmatrix} \right\} \leq M_{1,5}(\mathbb{R}).$$

What is row-rank of  $M$ ? Want: basis!

$$\begin{bmatrix} 3 & 2 & 8 & -1 & 0 \\ 1 & 7 & 6 & 1 & 1 \\ 4 & 1 & 7 & 0 & -5 \end{bmatrix} \rightsquigarrow \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 7 & 6 & 1 & 1 \\ 3 & 2 & 8 & -1 & 0 \\ 4 & 1 & 7 & 0 & -5 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\begin{array}{l} l_1 = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 7 & 6 & 1 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \\ l_2 = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & -19 & -10 & -4 & -3 \end{bmatrix} \\ l_3 = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & -27 & -17 & -4 & -9 \end{bmatrix} \end{array} \leftarrow \text{observe: last 2 rows are lin indep of one another (not scalar multiples...)}\right.$$

Moreover,  $\{l_1, l_2, l_3\}$  is lin indep.

So row-rank of  $M$  is 3.



Prop: Suppose  $A$  is a matrix. The row space of  $A$  has basis the <sup>nonzero</sup> rows of  $\text{RREF}(A)$ .  $\square$

$\hookrightarrow A$  is row-equiv to  $\text{RREF}(A)$ , so  $\text{row}(A) = \text{row}(\text{RREF}(A)) \dots$

Point: To compute a basis of  $\text{row}(A)$ , compute  $\text{RREF}(A)$  and use the nonzero rows  $\smile$ .

Cor: The row-rank of  $A$  is the number of leading 1's in  $\text{RREF}(A)$ .

Pf: # leading 1's in  $\text{RREF}(A) = \# \text{ nonzero rows } \text{RREF}(A)$

Defn: The column space of  $A$  is the span of the columns of  $A$ . We denote this by  $\text{col}(A)$ . The column-rank of  $A$  is  $\dim(\text{Col}(A))$ .

Ex: Let  $M = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 3 & 5 & 0 & -2 \\ 2 & 1 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & -5 & -10 & 1 & 4 \end{bmatrix}$ .

To compute the column space:

$\text{Col}(M) = \text{Span} \left\{ \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 2 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 3 \\ 1 \\ -5 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 5 \\ 0 \\ -10 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} -2 \\ 0 \\ 4 \end{bmatrix} \right\}$

Use  $\text{RREF}(M)$ !

$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 3 & 5 & 0 & -2 \\ 2 & 1 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & -5 & -10 & 1 & 4 \end{bmatrix} \rightsquigarrow \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 3 & 5 & 0 & -2 \\ 0 & -5 & -10 & 1 & 4 \\ 0 & -5 & -10 & 1 & 4 \end{bmatrix} \rightsquigarrow \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 3 & 5 & 0 & -2 \\ 0 & 5 & 10 & -1 & -4 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$

$$\leadsto \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 3 & 5 & 0 & -2 \\ 0 & 1 & 2 & -\frac{1}{3} & -\frac{4}{3} \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \leadsto \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & -1 & \frac{5}{3} & -\frac{2}{3} \\ 0 & 1 & 2 & -\frac{1}{3} & -\frac{4}{3} \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

When we choose a subset of the columns of  $M$  and ask about lin. ind., we get a 0-row for any 3 ...

Trying those:  
 $3 \times 2$  system  $\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 3 \\ 2 & 1 \\ 0 & -5 \end{bmatrix} \begin{matrix} \downarrow \\ \downarrow \end{matrix} \begin{matrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{matrix} \leadsto \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$

Interpretation: The first 2 vectors  $\begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 2 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 3 \\ 1 \\ -5 \end{bmatrix}$  are L.I.

Hence:  $\left\{ \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 2 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 3 \\ 1 \\ -5 \end{bmatrix} \right\}$  is a basis of  $\text{Col}(A)$ .

$\therefore$  the column-rank of  $A$  is 2.

NB: Row-rank of this  $A$  is also 2 ...  $\square$

Prop: Let  $A$  be an  $m \times n$  matrix. The column space of  $A$  has basis

$$B = \left\{ V_i : \begin{matrix} V_i \text{ is the } i^{\text{th}} \text{ column of } A, \\ \text{RREF}(A) \text{ has a leading 1 in column } i \end{matrix} \right\}. \quad \square$$

Cor: The column-rank of  $A$  is the number of  $\star$  leading 1's in  $\text{RREF}(A)$ .  $\square$

Cor: The row-rank of  $A$  is the same as the column-rank of  $A$ .

pf: We gave them the same description!  $\square$

Defn: The rank of  $A$  is  $\text{rank}(A) = \dim(\text{row}(A)) = \dim(\text{col}(A))$ .

Def<sup>n</sup>: The transpose of matrix  $A$  is the matrix  $A^T$  obtained by turning the  $i^{\text{th}}$  column of  $A$  into the  $i^{\text{th}}$  row of  $A^T$ . I.e.

for  $A = [a_{i,j}]_{i,j=1}^{m,n}$  we have  $A^T = [a_{j,i}]_{j,i=1}^{n,m}$ .

Ex:  $M = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 1 & 5 & 5 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 1 & 5 \\ 1 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$ ,  $M^T = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 5 & 1 & 0 \\ 5 & 5 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$

Observation: ①  $\text{row}(A) = \text{col}(A^T)$   
 i.e.  $\text{row}(A^T) = \text{col}(A)$ .  
 ②  $(A^T)^T = A^{TT} = A$ .

Cor: For all matrices  $A$ ,  $\text{rank}(A) = \text{rank}(A^T)$ .

Pf:  $\text{rank}(A) = \dim(\text{col}(A))$   
 $= \dim(\text{row}(A^T))$   
 $= \text{rank}(A^T)$ . □

Recall: Given matrix  $A$ , there is a corresponding linear transformation  $L_A: \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^m$

for  $A$  an  $m \times n$  matrix.  $L_A(\vec{x}) = A\vec{x}$ .

Earlier we defined:  $\text{col}(A) = \text{span}\{\text{columns of } A\}$   
 $\neq \text{ran}(L_A)$



Cor:  $\text{Col}(A) = \text{ran}(L_A)$  and so

$$\text{rank}(A) = \dim(\text{col}(A)) = \dim(\text{ran}(L_A)).$$

so we can define  $\text{rank}(L_A) = \text{rank}(A)$ .

Even better:  $\text{rank}(L_A) = \dim(\text{ran}(L_A))$

$A: n \times n$  matrix

$$= n - \text{nullity}(L_A).$$

$$= n - \dim(\text{null}(A)).$$

where  $\text{null}(A) = \{ \vec{x} : A\vec{x} = \vec{0} \}$ . \*

Let  $A$  be  $n \times n$ .  $L_A: \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^n$ .

$A^T$  is  $n \times n$ . So  $L_{A^T}: \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^n$ ,

but  $\text{rank}(L_A) = \text{rank}(L_{A^T}) \dots$

Prop: If  $A$  is an  $n \times n$  matrix, the following are equivalent:

- ①  $\text{rank}(A) = n$ .
- ②  $A\vec{x} = \vec{0}$  has a unique solution. \*
- ③  $A$  is nonsingular.
- ④ the rows of  $A$  span  $M_{1,n}(\mathbb{R})$
- ⑤ the rows of  $A$  are lin. indep.

$A$  is said to be non-singular.

$$\text{rank}(A) = n \rightarrow \dim(\text{null}(A)) = n - n = 0$$

$$\text{rank}(A) = n \rightarrow \dim(\text{row}(A)) = n \rightarrow \text{rows are a basis of } M_{1,n}(\mathbb{R}).$$

rows  $(A)$  are lin indep:  $n$  rows and  $\dim(\text{row}(A)) \geq n$ .

⑥ the columns of  $A$  span  $M_{n,1}(\mathbb{R})$ .

⑦ the columns of  $A$  are lin. indep.

⑧ Every linear system w/ coeff matrix  $A$  has a unique solution.

Remark: ⑧  $\leftrightarrow$  ② because: ⑧  $\rightarrow$  ② trivial.

②  $\rightarrow$  ⑧ follows from ②  $\rightarrow \text{col}(A)$  has full dimension.

$\rightarrow$  columns of  $A$  are a basis of  $\mathbb{R}^n$

$\rightarrow$  ⑧ by unique linear combinations

$B$  a basis of  $V$ .

$W \subseteq V$ .  $B \subseteq W$ .

Then  $\text{span}(B) \subseteq \text{span}(W) \subseteq V$   
           $\parallel$                    $\parallel$   
           $V$                    $W$

Hence  $V \subseteq W \subseteq V \Rightarrow V = W$ .

$\text{ran}(L) \subseteq V$  when  $L: W \rightarrow V$ .

$B \subseteq \text{ran}(L) \Rightarrow V = \text{span}(B) \subseteq \text{ran}(L)$